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FLOOR DEBATE

March 19, 2002      LB 1073A, 1073

over. I do want to point out that earlier debate said that, you know, this only addresses the five-year-old provision. Same seats were assumed and the fact is, you know, we're just making it a little broader than what it is. I don't believe that to be the case. I believe the actual scenario to be the fact that parents will need to buy this new device, one per child per vehicle, and if you want to car-pool you better buy one for the neighbors too, at approximately 20 bucks per item, \$20 per item. Now, let's figure that up over the whole sit...over the whole picture of this issue. And I don't know if this is an economic stimulus, because it will raise sales tax. But I'm...I don't know if that's the way we want to go about this. This issue, to me, is draconian. I question the intent of the person who put in the emergency clause into this bill, and Senator Thompson said that that was not her idea, and I commend her for that, by the way. But the fact that the emergency clause was put into the bill, I think, raises a red flag. I think it shows that the whole bill is draconian in nature. It removes the responsibility of individual parents. They should be able to decide for themselves without the government telling them...to take over. And Senator Thompson, in her closing on the...on LB 1073, said that it's our responsibility. I disagree. I do not believe that it's the government's responsibility to place every child in a safety seat. I believe that's a parental responsibility. And the more parental responsibilities we remove the more we remove parents from the picture. Carpooling, as I've discussed before, takes place. In fact, I think it involves parents to a greater extent. There are a lot of schools around the state that don't have busses; they car-pool instead. Are we going to tell these parents we don't need them anymore because we're going to get busses or, basically, put another charge to them? Because that's what the practical matter is. Obviously, I'm going to vote no on the A bill because I think, obviously, we shouldn't spend any money on it. But more importantly, LB 1073, I hope, does not become law. I did not sense a great deal of enthusiasm in the advancement of LB 1073. I think we have far greater issues to discuss this session rather than spending multiple hours of debate on Select File. That...I don't know how things are going to carry down, but I think that we need to really see what our priorities are for this session, and whether LB 1073 is truly among the